

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ADP-00 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-13 RSR-01 /155 W

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R 230350Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9271

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USINT ALGIERS

USUN NEW YORK 174

C O N F I D E N T I A L 3312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 149073 B) STATE 163270

1. I RAISED QUESTION OF SEATING GRUNK AND PRG AT NAC
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM YESTERDAY AND STRESSED
OUR CONCERN THAT THIS COULD UNFAVORABLY AFFECT OUR
COMMON POLITICAL INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
I SAID I ASSUMED THAT GOS WAS OPPOSED TO
SEATING OF DELEGATES FROM THESE TWO NON-COUNTRIES AS
THEY HAD AT GEORGETOWN AND ASKED WHAT SINGAPORE INTENDED
TO DO AT ALGIERS TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN. RAJARATNAM
SAID HE FULLY AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPROPER TO SEAT DELEGATES
REPRESENTING THE PRG AND GRUNK. GOS STRONGLY OF VIEW THAT
NAC SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED OR TAKE SIDES IN WHAT ARE
ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL MATTERS OF COUNTRIES CONCERNED. HE
SAID HE THOUGH NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES SHOULD REALIZE THAT
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THEY WERE SETTING DANGEROUS PRECEDENT BY RECOGNIZING

DISSIDENT ELEMENTS OR INSURGENT REGIMES SINCE SOME OF THE NON-ALIGNED THEMSELVES ARE LIKELY BE CONFRONTED BY SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES IN FUTURE. HE ALSO THOUGH NAC SHOULD NOT GO AGAINST WISHES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF SEA SINCE THEIR POLITICAL INTERESTS WERE INVOLVED.

2. I ASKED RAJARATNAM WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO OR SAY AT ALGIERS TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN. HE SAID FACT THAT SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA ARE SENDING ONLY FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEETING WILL BE READ AS INDICATION OF THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH WAY SEATING QUESTION WAS HANDLED AT GEORGETOWN. HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO ALGERIAN TOURISM MINISTER, WHO VISITED SINGAPORE TWO MONTHS AGO TO URGE PM LEE TO ATTEND NAC, THAT SINGAPORE WAS DOWNGRADING REPRESENTATION BECAUSE OF DISSATISFACTION OVER SEATING QUESTION. HE WOULD MAKE THIS KNOWN AT ALGIERS AS WELL. BEYOND THAT AND PERHAPS GENERAL STATEMENT RE DESIRABILITY NAC NOT INTERFERING IN ANY COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HE SAID BEST TACTIC IS TO PLAY DOWN ISSUE. IF IT BECOMES MATTER OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE AT CONFERENCE, HE THINKS IT WILL HAVE WIDER AND MORE DAMAGING IMPACT THAN IF IT WERE TREATED IN ROUTINE FASHION. HE THINKS SIHANOUK WOULD LIKE TO DRAMATIZE HIS PRESENCE AND PROLONGED AND HEATED DEBATE WITH ULTIMATE VICTORY FOR SIHANOUK SUPPORTERS -- WHICH IS A CERTAINTY -- WOULD PLAY INTO HIS HANDS.

4. RAJARATNAM BELIEVES SEATING OF BOTH DELEGATIONS IS INEVITABLE AND MATTER WILL BE "RAILROADED" THROUGH WITHOUT DEBATE. IN THAT EVENT, SINGAPORE WILL PROBABLY ENTER RESERVATION AS THEY DID AT GEORGETOWN. HE SAID WHILE HE AGREED WITH US VIEWS IN MATTER, HE THOUGHT WE TOOK IT TOO SERIOUSLY. MEETING WILL LAST SEVEN DAYS, HE SAID, AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY EVERYONE WILL FORGET WHAT HAD BEEN SAID.
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